

What is claimed is:

1. A portable information terminal device comprising:  
an enclosure of said portable information terminal  
device,

5 an imaging element provided within said enclosure,  
a first lens provided within said enclosure for said  
imaging element,

a second lens, a focal length of which being shorter  
than that of said first lens, provided within said enclosure  
10 for said imaging element,

a lens selection means, provided within said enclosure,  
for selecting one of said first lens and said second lens so  
that a focal point of a selected lens is established at said  
imaging element, and

15 a transparent plate to which a tip of a finger of an  
user of said portable information terminal device is  
attached,

wherein said imaging element captures an image of a  
fingerprint of said tip of the finger on said transparent  
20 plate by said second lens selected by said lens selection  
means.

2. A portable information terminal device comprising:  
a first enclosure and a second enclosure of said  
portable information terminal device freely openable and  
25 closable about a hinge mechanism,

an imaging element provided within said first  
enclosure,

a first lens provided within said first enclosure for  
said imaging element,

a second lens, a focal length of which being shorter than that of said first lens provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element,

5 a lens selection means, provided within said first enclosure, which, in response to an opening and a closing operation of said first and second enclosures, selects one of said first lens and said second lens, so that, in an open condition a focal point of said first lens is established at said imaging element, and in a closed condition a focal point  
10 of said second lens is established at said imaging element, and

a transparent plate, provided on said second enclosure, to which a tip of a finger of an user of said portable information terminal device is attached,

15 wherein said imaging element captures an image of a fingerprint of said tip of the finger on said transparent plate by said second lens selected by said lens selection means.

3. A portable information terminal device comprising:  
20 a first enclosure and a second enclosure of said portable information terminal device freely openable and closable about a hinge mechanism,

an imaging element provided within said first enclosure,

25 a first window provided on a front surface of said second enclosure for said imaging element and having a keyboard thereon,

a first lens provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element,

a second lens, a focal length of which being shorter than that of said first lens, provided within said first enclosure for said imaging element,

5 a second window provided on a front surface of said first enclosure, said front surface thereof being opposite to said front surface of said second enclosure, when both of said enclosures being attached to each other, and

10 a transparent plate, to which a tip of a finger of an user of said portable information terminal device is attached, being positioned on a back surface of said second enclosure so as to oppose to said first window,

15 wherein said transparent plate, said first window, said second lens and said imaging element are arranged in one row when said first and second enclosures are contacted to each other to form a closed condition.

20 4. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein a lens selection means is provided within said first enclosure, said lens selection means causes said first and second lenses to be moved in response to an opening and a closing operation of said first and second enclosures, so that said lens selection means establishes a focal point of said first lens on said imaging element when both enclosures are in an open condition, and when both enclosures are in a closed condition, a focal point of said second lens  
25 is established at said imaging element.

5. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said first lens is disposed between said first window and said imaging element when said first and second enclosures being in an open condition.

6. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said transparent plate is disposed within a depression provided on said rear surface of said second enclosure.

5 7. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein a LED for illuminating said tip of the finger on said transparent plate is provided in a vicinity of said transparent plate.

10 8. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said first lens is a lens for forming an image of an object disposed outside said first enclosure onto said imaging element.

15 9. A portable information terminal device comprising:  
an enclosure of said portable information terminal device,

an imaging element provided within said enclosure,  
a first lens provided within said enclosure for said imaging element,

20 a second lens for said imaging element, a focal length of which being shorter than that of said first lens and provided within said enclosure,

a first window for said first lens and provided on a surface of said enclosure,

25 a second window for said second lens and provided in a vicinity of said first window, and

an imaging element rotating means, which sets a rotation angle of said imaging element at either a first angle or a second angle, so as to set a focal point of either one of said first lens or said second lens at said imaging element,

wherein said imaging element captures an image of said fingerprint of said tip of the finger pressed on either said first window or said second window set by said imaging element rotating means.

5           10. A portable information terminal device according to claim 9, wherein said enclosure comprising a first enclosure and a second enclosure both of which are freely openable and closable about a hinge mechanism, and said imaging element, said first lens, said second lens, said first  
10 window, and said second window are provided in either said first enclosure and said second enclosure.

*530* 11. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said device further comprising,

15           a pattern comparison means which compares a pattern of said fingerprint captured by said imaging element with a pattern stored prior in a memory, and

20           a releasing means, which, only when said pattern comparison means detects that said patterns coincide with each other, releases a prohibition on processing of a prescribed signal processing operation.

12. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said device is a portable telephone apparatus.

25           13. A portable information terminal device according to claim 3, wherein said device is a portable computer.